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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

CITY.—Stocks were generally weak and dull. The Commission on Food and Fuel turned up another case in which Judge Mulgreen directed an acquittal because of an improper remark by a witness. A boy was instantly killed by a bullet from a car that exploded when it was thrown into a bonfire. Two patrolmen going off duty captured two alleged burglars, getting one with the aid of an automobile apparently waiting to hurry off and not, as the police charged to Congress, a member of the Public Service Commission. Mr. Taft's confidence in his re-nomination is based on the expectation that he will get a fair deal at Chicago. If the campaign of bluster and browbeating waged in behalf of Colonel Roosevelt fails; if the delegates who were elected by constituents in the belief that they were favorable to Mr. Taft do not betray those who sent them to Chicago, and if those who are to pass upon the claims of contesting delegates to seats do not permit themselves to be frightened by the threats that are being uttered for their benefit, but decide fairly between the men regularly elected and the pretenders sent to Chicago by rump conventions, Mr. Taft will have an easy victory.

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and without complaint he will be inviting the sequel that followed the acceptance of the first 50-cent increase after 1902. In the figures which the Tribune is submitting he has the facts for his guidance. He may know how much of this proposed 25-cent increase is totally without warrant. He may also find out what justification exists for the rest of the demand, and decide for himself how much increase these interests, which have already advanced the price of the commodity heavily in recent years, are now entitled in common decency to ask.

The public is not defenceless. Mr. Raer, the coal operator, gave it a tip when he said to the miners some time ago:

We cannot arbitrarily advance the price of coal. The public will not permit us to do that. It might involve possible legislation which would be drastic. The amount of the increase is put forth tentatively and modification to see how the public will take it. How will it take it? Will it take it so as to invite a repetition of the tactics following 1902, with its two 50-cent advances in price?

MR. TAFT'S CONFIDENCE.

The confidence which President Taft expresses in his re-nomination is based on the expectation that he will get a fair deal at Chicago. If the campaign of bluster and browbeating waged in behalf of Colonel Roosevelt fails; if the delegates who were elected by constituents in the belief that they were favorable to Mr. Taft do not betray those who sent them to Chicago, and if those who are to pass upon the claims of contesting delegates to seats do not permit themselves to be frightened by the threats that are being uttered for their benefit, but decide fairly between the men regularly elected and the pretenders sent to Chicago by rump conventions, Mr. Taft will have an easy victory.

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government was censured by the unanimous vote of the Diet of Alsace. Doubtless the Emperor thought that the Diet should have approved and confirmed the action of the local authorities in rebuking the disloyal manager, and it is easy to understand how greatly its contrary action displeased him. Neither is it difficult, on sentimental grounds, to sympathize with him. Yet it may be maintained that the Diet acted within its indisputable rights as the legislature of a sovereign state, and is not lawfully to be punished for so doing.

The other ground of criticism is that of the Emperor's apparent arrogation to himself of an authority which is vested not in him but in the Bundesrath and Reichstag. It is pointed out that it is not for him automatically to make or unmake constitutions. That is the province of the two legislative bodies, which are the authors of the constitution of the Reichsland against which his threat was directed. It might indeed be explained that he was speaking in behalf of those bodies, and that when he said "we" shall repeal the constitution he meant not himself, individually, but the whole German government. But in some quarters that explanation is not thought to accord with his characteristic disposition and manner. On a former occasion he said that those who opposed him he would "smash to pieces"; obviously meaning himself, individually. Of course, it is not a counsel of reason simply to reply that for saying such a thing the Emperor ought to have his throne smashed to pieces, or else himself to be shut up in a madhouse, for the suggestion of the Social-Democratic leader in the Reichstag. But yet it is not surprising that passions rise as high on the one side as on the other.

The expected has happened in the declaration of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to make any change in that portion of the Book of Discipline which relates to indulgence in amusements, but the fact that more than 45 per cent of the conference voted in favor of a change, and the widespread and earnest discussion which has long prevailed, indicate unmistakably the sentiment of a large part of the millions of that denomination and suggest that the matter has by no means been finally settled. Meantime there seem to be arising some popular misconceptions of the point at issue which place it in a false and misleading light. The idea seems actually to be prevalent that the creed or articles of faith of the Church specifically condemn card-playing, dancing and theatre-going. That is not the case.

There is only one reference to the subject in the constitution of the Church, and that is not in the Articles of Religion, but in the General Rules supplementary thereto, and it simply states that members of the Church are "expected" to avoid "the taking of such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus"; this being bracketed with "the putting on of gold and costly apparel," "laying up treasure upon earth," etc. The next reference is not in the constitution but in the "Special Advice," and it is in the form of a command or pledge but of "a solemn note of warning and exhortation," particularly against theatre-going, dancing and such games of chance as are "frequently associated with gambling."

In the same "Advice" there are still stronger utterances against the wearing of jewelry, against marrying unbelievers and against recognizing any divorce except for adultery.

The third reference to the subject, and the one over which the controversy has chiefly been waged, is in that part of the Book of Discipline which relates to the judicial administration of the Church. It provides for remonstrance, proof and in extreme cases expulsion from the Church for various forms of "imprudent and unchristian conduct," including "dancing, playing at games of chance, attending theatres, horse races, 'circuses,' etc. It may be added that precisely the same penalty is prescribed for those who go to law over business disputes instead of submitting them to arbitration by fellow members and the minister, or who fail to attend class meetings (which in a large proportion of churches are no longer held), or to maintain family prayers. It seems probable that enforcement of the rule in respect of these latter things would cause as much trouble as in the case of the proscribed amusements. At any rate, a review of these actual circumstances of the case suggests the need of a generous discretion in dealing with it, which will take into account the constitution, rules and practice of the Church as a whole, and not confine consideration to a single clause or paragraph.

Regular Customer—I shall want a large quantity of flowers from you next week for my daughter's coming out.

Flower Woman—Yes, mam. You shall have the very best for 'er, pore dear. Wat were she put in for?—Punch.

THE PUBLIC PAYS. (Replies increasing prices sufficiently to pay an advanced wage to the miners, the operators added enough to give them an extra profit of \$8,000,000 yearly.—News Item.)

The miners win! And they do, too. Who own the bit? No matter who. Each party says. This fact is hot. The public pays.

They fight. We plead. They make a fuss. Their only creed. 'Is 'Study us.' Each side shouts 'Give. Our cause your praise! And so, to live. The public pays.

For all we eat. For all we drink. We pay. Decet. Given us the wink. When fights are lost Or won, these days, Still comes the cost.—The public pays.

Mr. Bugzine—Why don't you let me pay cash for this hat of yours instead of waiting to have it charged?

Mrs. Bugzine—While we are waiting an entirely new style might come in.—Philadelphia Record.

The space behind a half portion in a combination restaurant-saloon in Harlem known in the neighborhood as "Conard" is occupied for hours every week night by a number of elderly men who drink much beer, play cards for low or no stakes and debate questions of all kinds from pretzels to politics. On one table, reserved for the elders, the privileged guests, known as "Stammgäste," there stood one night last week an inverted beer mug decorated with a wide black ribbon. A rank outsider who asked about it was told that in this way his friends remembered the anniversary of the death of a Stammgast. "We observe three anniversaries in this way," the man

criminal offence, the perpetrators of which ought not to be arraigned as criminals. But that is the plea of every assassin of a Czar or President or Minister of Police, and of every anarchist bomb-thrower. We would not like Mrs. Pankhurst to these. But surely she uses their arguments, and the acceptance of her plea would validate theirs. The crowning touch, however, was given by Dr. Ethel Smyth, who testified that she had smashed Mr. Harcourt's windows solely because he had praised his own wife above other women. He had said that he would not object to women's voting if they were all as intelligent, as well balanced and as altogether admirable as Mrs. Harcourt. Oh, monstrous!

Seriously, these were the pleadings and arguments of the authoritative leaders of the suffragette campaign. They indicate the motives which set them at window smashing. It is not unjust to assume that they would be impelled by what motives they would be impelled in the exercise of the civil rights which they seek to enjoy. There is much satisfaction in adding that they strongly emphasize the difference between the suffragette of London and the suffragist of New York.

AN EXPERT. What a pity the state cannot secure the services of a person like the one just arrested for burglary—who has been arrested thirteen times before on serious charges and never sent to prison—for the purpose of telling it what the matter is with the criminal law. He is qualified as an expert in escaping its clutches. While the whole town is bemoaning its head over suspended sentences at the rate of one hundred a month, this expert, if he could be consulted, would probably laugh and tell us that the trouble is not in suspending sentences but in not sentencing at all. Moreover, he would be right, for attention to the escape of crooks under suspension of sentence is, after all, watching the spittoon when the leak is at the bung-hole.

Of the one hundred a month, probably no great number get away by grave abuses of justice. But think of the number who must constantly slip out of the hands of the law, as this man has done thirteen times, through the weakness of the police in furnishing evidence, through the blunders of the courts, by the exercise of pull, through the favor of technicalities or by the operation of the law's delay. This man could tell us much that would be interesting. On the principle of setting a thief to catch a thief, an assembly of such as he might on the basis of their own experiences enact laws that would be crook-proof. But it is idle to think of it. His motto probably is, and will always remain, "I care not who makes the laws provided 'that I break them.'"

Non for that boasted Jersey Justice on May 28.

The description of the eight-legged fish with teeth like a dog's and fur-covered feet which was captured off the California coast is incomplete. The report should have added that its tail was adorned with feathers like a peacock's, that the tips of its ears were twisted like a lynx's and that it wore a monocle in its left eye.

Nine months is excessive martyrdom. Budapest, long noted as one of the most progressive and enterprising capitals of the world, sets the interesting new example of a general strike of workmen because they do not like the choice made in the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

I have been famous ever since I wrote to Mayor Gayton, sending him a check for the Titanic fund, when I told him, and he afterward quoted it, that the Titanic had no business so far north when there was plenty of room for her south, where it would not have been in danger from icebergs.—Andrew Carnegie.

Why so modest? Only since then?

The case of the boy in Philadelphia whose lost speech was restored by the kick of a mule is interesting, but not unique. In a number of cases the detritus application of a mule's rear pedal extremity has been known to stimulate the vocal organs and induce an unexpected fluency and copiousness of speech.

THE TALK OF THE DAY. An incident of Mr. Roosevelt's visit to Passaic, N. J., yesterday concerns a Taft Republican who has been voting the Taft ticket since Grant's time—a loyal, dyed-in-the wool adherent of the party. He has no use for the colonel's theories, and when he learned that the ex-President was to speak at the High School, next to his home, he obtained the biggest Taft picture he could find and attached it to the most conspicuous post on his veranda. And Colonel Roosevelt saw it.

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